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Dear Dr. Flexner :

I have not been sent to the front because they need me for operative work in a large hospital. I will have to operate upon cases of aneurisms, section of nerves, etc. and to take care of large wounds. I was told that I would be useless man ~~on~~ ambulance, because there will be no time for delicate operations.

I am very happy to have an opportunity to apply on human beings the technique developed during the last years at the Rockefeller Institute. The conditions under which I have to work are far from good. The hospital is old, the people ignorant, and the methods of sterilization inaccurate. I will miss very much Miss Lilly and the Rockefeller Institute. Nevertheless, I am attempting to organise an operating department, which will allow me to perform aseptic operations.

I have already an ice box for the preservation of skin, fat, and blood vessels. We are attempting to get a number of people ready to give their blood for transfusion. We have pretty good instruments, but the assistants are ignorant and ill trained.

My wife is much better. A few days after I left she was confined. Of course the child was dead I hope that there will be no complications and that she will be well again.

Suddenly the spirit of France has changed. It is almost unbelievable. Our men are in splendid moral condition. We must thank Germany, which will be responsible for the resurrection of France. Our men are going to the front very cheerfully, because they fight for the life of France and for the liberty of Europe. The German insolence has become unbearable for all European nations.

The future is very dark. But we hope that the war will be short. Within a few days we will know more about the probable duration of the war, and I will write to you again.

With best wishes to you and Mrs. Flexner and your children,

Yours faithfully
(signed) Alexis Carrel.

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